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EIGHT PAGES.

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1900.

THE RIDICULOUS POSITION OF THE CABINET.

The meeting of the Cabinet has had the effect to definitely settle the relations of the United States with China, and to forecast clearly the course that the Administration is to follow. The Administration is to go ahead and make war to the limit of its resources, but is not to call it war. In the event that the contest reaches proportions beyond the grapple of the 10,000 men that can be spared to the invading force Congress will be called to endorse what has already been done, and to authorize an increase of the army and the expenditure of larger sums for the prosecution of the war. That, in brief, was the program as foreshadowed by what was given out after the meeting.

As we have pointed out before, this course permits a much wider latitude to Mr. McKinley than would be his under a formal declaration of war. If war were formally declared, when the issue had been settled there would be no excuse for retaining American troops in China; under the present program the troops can be required to remain in China, and do police duty for an indefinite period on the ground that anarchy exists and there is no responsible government. To formally declare war would be equivalent to an admission that there is a responsible government.

There is no fault to be found with the hesitancy to ask Congress to declare war. As yet there is nothing to show conclusively that we have a cause for war. It is impossible, however, to justify the subterfuge by which it is endeavored to make it appear that the United States is not actively making war at this time. Nothing could be more absurd than the position taken by the Cabinet. It refused to admit that the President is making war, while at the same time the Paymaster-General of the War Department was authorized to announce that the troops sent to China will receive the 20 per cent. increase of pay provided by law for troops engaged in actual war. This decision is perfectly proper and just. The troops deserve the increase of pay, but how the troops of the United States can be engaged in war while their country is at peace is a problem that may be left to the Washington cosmists to solve.

The significant feature of the situation is the evident purpose of Mr. McKinley to use, without any say so of Congress, the army of the United States to police Mongolia. Here is the declaration of Mr. Hanna, who may or may not be a member of the syndicate seeking concessions in China, as to the President's authority as he sees it:

"The President has full power to meet all conditions as they may arise. He has a full treasury, and is empowered to call on the troops he may require to meet such emergencies as may arise. There seems now to be no reason why Congress should be called together. Subsequent developments, however, may make such action necessary."

The troops being dispatched to China carry a complete outfit of winter clothing, showing that the period of service is not expected to be brief.

Under Mr. Hanna's bold claim of absolute power for the President, Mr. McKinley is to go ahead with his program of figuring as a Power in China, unhampered by any restrictions of Congress or of international law, until the country is inextricably entangled in foreign alliances that will be at once the occasion and excuse of militarism, and further stretches of Executive authority.

MACARTHUR'S NEED OF MEN.

The announcement in the uncensored correspondence of the Associated Press that MacArthur needs 100,000 men in the Philippines will not occasion surprise in those who have followed the course of events there. There has never been a full or a candid exposition of conditions in the islands. Their status was long ago made the subject of political controversy, and since that time no effort has been spared to suppress facts that would prejudice the policy of conquest in the eyes of the American people, while the censor at Manila and the War Office at Washington were essentially parts of a bureau of political information. If direct misrepresentation was not resorted to—and disinterested observers have charged it—there has been systematic suppression of facts and a thorough coloring of the military situation in the islands to suit the requirements of the political situation in the United States. For more than a year it has been persistently and regularly asserted by the head of our military government that the war was over and the "insurgents" broken up into small bands of marauders that attempted no operations more serious than cutting up an occasional patrol. And yet, week after week, the casualty lists have come in, telling a story of dwindling forces and of widespread hostility. Bands of Filipinos as large as the forces of the Americans at Bennington or Cowpens are reported regularly to have attacked our troops. We hold the cities of the Philippines—the Filipinos hold the rest. That is practically the situation after a year and a half of war. During all of this time the United States has maintained an army of 40,000 to 70,000 men in the islands. Two commissions have been appointed and have visited the Philippines in an attempt to devise means for conciliating the inhabitants and establishing civil government. Proclamations have been promulgated without stint, and finally amnesty promised to all Filipinos who will lay down their arms, not to mention \$30 for each rifle surrendered. And yet General MacArthur finds himself in need of more men now than he was asserted at first would be necessary to conquer the islands, for all the war-is-over announcements we have had. We bought a war of oppression, and we are paying for it.

TENNESSEE IN THE CAMPAIGN.

The esteemed Knoxville Journal and Tribune is pumping courage and confidence into the Republicans of Tennessee, and, we conjecture, incidentally, into the National Republican Campaign Committee, and the chairman and barrel-master thereof in particular. The Journal and Tribune is as facile and winsome in this process as a dredging machine. It affects to believe that the Republicans really have a show to carry Tennessee, which it says is normally a Republican State. This is odd, seeing that it uniformly goes Democratic. But odd things have right of way in Tennessee, or some parts of it. The Journal and Tribune hinges its confidence and books its prophecy of success upon the withdrawal, in the interest of harmony, of Hon. Benton McMillin, upon whom a rather nasty fight has been made, from the race for the Democratic nomination for Senator. It invites and importunes all Republicans to note the fact, if they "lack confidence," and get ready to swing Tennessee into the Republican column. To the ordinary mind the withdrawal of McMillin and the consequent assurance of harmony would seem rather poor consolation to Republicans, but the Journal and Tribune is no ordinary mind. It, however, throws this delicious warning into the invincibles as a parting shot:

"As good as the chances are this year it is idle to talk unless Republicans themselves grasp the situation, come together and take advantage of their opportunity. The State is normally Republican, it has been carried by H. Clay Evans, and if the party managers, both national and State, take steps for immediate and vigorous action, there can be no doubt as to the result."

The exquisite tact of this last can only be appreciated by recalling that there are two factions of the Republican party in Tennessee, one of which is led by Hon. H. Clay Evans, for whom several of the Brownlowites carry clubs and Winchester. To say H. Clay Evans to them is like casting John Wamamaker in the teeth of the Quay heels. You could not persuade a Brownlowite that Hon. H. Clay Evans ever carried, or can carry, anything more difficult than a concealed weapon. Which likewise shows the kind of harmony that broods over the Republican ranks in Tennessee. The Evans faction was rolled out flat as a pan cake by the National Committee at Philadelphia and the amount of "enthusing" it will do this fall will be commensurate with the kindly sentiments that such a flattening always inspires. But Tennessee in the Republican column? Not much!

The New York Journal of Commerce does not share the view that China can pay cash indemnities commensurate with just demands for recent outrages. It points out that China's present debt is only some \$300,000,000, while the tariff duties, under the Tien Tsin treaty fixed at 5 per cent. ad valorem in silver, suffices for the government's needs. The corrupt methods prevalent in the handling of the revenue are notorious, hardly a tenth of the collections finding their way into the imperial treasury. Honest administration would make China capable financially.

Cape Nome, to a certainty, is getting ready to inject a new horror into the grisly dispatches of the day.

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